

DTR-9485

17 JAN 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Management & Services
SUBJECT : Board of Visitors

Harold:

Attached is a draft of a letter that I believe would be suitable to send to prospective members of the Board of Visitors. However, before discussing this further with you and taking the irrevocable step of mailing these letters, I have some second thoughts that you should know about.

Seven months have passed since we decided that the Board of Visitors concept, in addition to a Board of Overseers, was an efficient and useful way to upgrade our training programs. I am now inclined to believe that a Board of Visitors may indeed be more of a burden than we initially believed. For example, it would take an inordinate amount of time for the Board to learn enough about the Agency and its employees to make constructive suggestions about training programs. In my opinion, OTR needs assistance in developing and improving the substance of its training, but not with the organization and management of the Office. Yet, the latter is precisely the thrust of contributions made by the DIS Board of Visitors. While that may be very useful to DIA/DIS, I do not believe we need similar assistance.

Furthermore, I now question my earlier thought that a Board of Visitors would be an acceptable move insofar as the Congress and the public media are concerned. Our Congressional oversight committees might object to a group of outsiders serving in this advisory capacity. Certainly, we would be taking some calculated chances that individual Board members might divulge sensitive matters to public media representatives and others, either unwittingly or where serious disagreements developed with Agency policy. In other words, we would be taking a risk that we really do not need to take given the marginal prospect of the contributions anticipated from a Board of Visitors.

ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE

I would much prefer asking the Management Committee to authorize us to postpone for one year further consideration of establishing a Board. In the meantime, we would upgrade the Board of Overseers, as already approved by the Management Committee, and encourage the group to concentrate on priority substantive improvements. After a year, we would reassess the Board of Visitors concept and make a suitable recommendation to the Management Committee.

I would very much appreciate the opportunity to discuss this with you and with the Management Committee, if you are so inclined.



Alfonso Rodriguez
Director of Training

ILLEGIB

Att

ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY

DRAFT

17 January 1974

LETTER FOR: Prospective Members of the Board of Visitors

Dear Mr.:

The Director of Central Intelligence has decided to establish a Board of Visitors to provide counsel and direction in the evaluation and execution of the Agency's training programs. I would like to propose your name as a Board member for the Director's consideration.

We anticipate that the Board of Visitors will provide valuable independent opinions about the relevance and quality of our training programs and how well they prepare our professionals to meet the requirements and challenges of a rapidly changing world.

We would also expect that the Board would assist us in identifying new developments and techniques in the business and academic worlds that may contribute to the education of our officers.

The Board probably will meet no more than two times a year for one to three days each time. Its members, of course, must receive the same special security clearances as regular employees of the Agency. Each Board member will be employed by the Agency as a consultant and be entitled to a consultant's standard fee and reimbursement for expenses.

Your participation as a member of the Board of Visitors would undoubtedly benefit our training programs. We would very much appreciate your favorable consideration. Our Director of Training, Mr. Alfonso Rodriguez, Area Code [] is available to brief you in more detail in your office, or here, if you plan to be in the Washington area during January or February.

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HAROLD L. BROWMAN
Deputy Director
for
Management and Services

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Board of Visitors

FROM:

Director of Training

EXTENSION

NO.

DTR-9485

DATE

17 JAN 1974

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1. DD/M&S

1/18 1/21

2.

3. D/TR

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I just wanted to be sure I gave you a chance to hear my doubts - a last time. Better to say them now than later. If you say go - however - we'll go ahead with full speed.

I don't agree, in fact I believe that you are parochial in your thinking. Your points are valid as criteria to be used for selection of the Board of Visitors.